

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on September 19, 2006. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-46 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 23, 25, 32, 35, 39, and 43; 2) added no new claims; and 3) canceled claims 7, 11, 24, 34, 36-37, 40-42, and 44-45. As such, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-23, 25-33, 35, 38-39, 43, and 46 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8, 11-16, 24-27, 34, 37, 42, and 45 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11. Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 24. Independent claim 32 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 34. Independent claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 37 and intervening claim 36. Independent claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 42. Independent claim 43 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45 and intervening claim 44.

Applicant thus respectfully requests allowance of amended independent claims 1, 10, 23, 32, 35, 39, and 43 and respective dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, 12-22, 25-31, 33, 38, and 46.

Claim Rejections

35 USC §112, Second Paragraph Rejections

Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, as having insufficient antecedent basis for “the first processor.” Claim 43 has been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment is sufficient to overcome the 35 USC §112 rejection of claims 43 and 46.

35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 17, 19-23, 28-33, and 39-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being considered to be anticipated by Marshall, Jr. et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,134,634 (hereinafter “Marshall”).

Claims 35, 36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being considered to be anticipated by Middleton, U.S. Patent No. 6,564,301 (hereinafter “Middleton”).

Claims 18, 43, 44, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marshall, Jr. et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,134,634 (hereinafter “Marshall”).

As stated above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, 23, 32, 35, 39, and 43 to include subject matter considered by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103

rejections have been overcome for independent claims 1, 10, 23, 32, 35, 39, and 43, and respective dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, 12-22, 25-31, 33, 38, and 46.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 50-0221. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cyndi M. Wheeler at (916) 356-5358.

Respectfully Submitted,

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